

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 IO-10 /115 W

----- 014297

R 201100Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1162

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1363

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ENRG, KU, NP

SUBJ: VISIT OF KUWAITI DELEGATION

REF: KATHMANDU 2052 OF MAY 21, 1974

1. KUWAIT DELEGATION HEADED BY ADBUL LATIF Y. AL HAMAD, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF KUWAIT FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTED KATHMANDU MARCH 17, AFTER A THREE DAY VISIT, ENROUTE TO BANGLADESH. IN STATEMENT AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, AL HAMAD SAID THAT DELEGATION WAS HAPPY TO HAVE ARRIVED AT AN UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION IN THE POWER AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS BETWEEN NEPAL AND KUWAIT'S FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT THE FUND WAS LITTLE CONCERNED WITH POLITICS AND HOPED THAT THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FUND AND NEPAL WOULD BE ON A LONG TERM BASIS. OBSERVING THAT HE WAS PRIMARILY HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUND'S ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD ALSO BEEN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND KUWAIT. AL HAMAD ENDED

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HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT KUWAIT AND NEPAL WERE MEMBERS OF

THE SAME GROUP, NAMELY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE FUND WAS SEEKING TO EXTEND ITS AREA OF COOPERATION.

2. COMMENT: THE KUWAITI DELEGATION WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT BY THE GON. PRESS COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE, WITH SPECIAL EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLES DESCRIBING KUWAIT'S HISTORY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. WHILE HERE THE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY KING BIRENDRA AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER RIJAL AND TOP RANKING OFFICIALS IN MAJOR MINISTRIES. THE DELEGATION WAS ENTERTAINED AT DINNER HOSTED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE BHEKH THAPA, WHICH IBRD RES REP DESCRIBED AS MOST LAVISH AFFAIR HE HAS ATTENDED IN NEPAL. IBRD REP, WHO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH KUWAITI DELEGATION AND GON OFFICIALS, SAID VISIT HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL, AND HE WAS CERTAIN THAT NEPAL WOULD RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM KUWAITI FUND. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PIN DOWN PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BENEFIT FROM KUWAIT'S ASSISTANCE, BUT THE MENTION OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS RAISES POSSIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTION TO KULIKHANI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT FOR WHICH GON NEEDS TO FIND \$40 MILLION TO SUPPLEMENT INPUTS FROM JAPAN AND IBRD. THE SUCCESS OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO NEPAL, WHICH ENGENDERED GOOD WILL AND OPTIMISM, CONTRASTS WITH GON DISSAPPOINTMENT FOLLOWING FOREIGN SECRETARY KAHTRI'S VISIT TO KUWAIT EARLY IN 1974, WHEN FOREIGN SECRETARY THOUGHT HE WAS SNUBBED (SEE REFTEL). WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER

INFORMATION EMBASSY KUWAIT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ON POSSIBILITY OF AID TO NEPAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, VISITS, SPEECHES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA01363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0242
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750333/aaaabdhb.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KATHMANDU 2052, 75 OF MAY 21, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <23 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF KUWAITI DELEGATION
TAGS: EAID, ENRG, KU, NP, (AL HAMAD, ABDUL LATIF Y)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006